

Maryland's Early Innovator Exchange Grant Fact Sheet February 2011

Maryland Awarded \$6.2 Million Federal Grant for Health Reform Implementation

On February 16, 2011, Maryland was awarded a \$6.2 million grant from the federal government to begin developing key functions of a statewide health insurance exchange, as required under the Affordable Care Act. Starting in 2014, exchanges will help individuals and small employers shop for, select, and enroll in health coverage.

The grant provides federal resources to help Maryland with one of the building blocks of health care reform. It positions Maryland to develop, step by step, an effective health insurance exchange. Maryland is one of only seven states selected to receive the two-year award, which will help the State design and implement the information technology (IT) infrastructure needed to operate an exchange.

First Step to Simpler Health Coverage

The goal for the exchanges is to make purchasing health insurance easier and more understandable. Federal reform requires seamless determination of eligibility for Medicaid and for the new federal health insurance subsidies provided through the exchange.

The grant will allow Maryland to develop the technical components needed for the exchange to seamlessly determine eligibility for Medicaid and federal subsidies. The proposal, Healthy Maryland Plus, builds on Maryland's current Healthy Maryland pilot, which facilitates access to Medicaid, the Primary Adult Care program and local health programs. It will automate verifications, such as citizenship and income, which will streamline the enrollment process.

Innovations Can Serve as National Model

Maryland's commitment to a model consumer experience for one-stop health eligibility determinations is a foundation of health reform implementation. Healthy Maryland Plus will be accessible to other states and will be developed in partnership with other states.

Future Steps

At this stage, Maryland's Early Innovator Exchange Grant will support just one part of many functions that will be needed by the exchange. The Maryland General Assembly is currently considering legislation to establish the basic structure and governance of the exchange. The exchange will also assess resources and systems in Maryland that can be leveraged for successful implementation.

[Maryland Innovators Proposal.pdf](#)